

From: Charleston Regional Chamber of Commerce via in.constantcontact.com [*] <info@charlestonwvchamber.com>
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To: whartman@mail.wvnet.edu
Subject: WV Legislative Update, the 55th Day



The Charleston Regional Chamber of Commerce

Today marks the 55th day of the Legislative Session.

This is the last week of the 2019 Session, officially ending this Saturday at midnight.

This is an example list of bills of interest, not meant to be exclusive. We try to highlight bills of interest that are “on the move.” Please reach out if there are bills you think we should investigate and track.

Here is a link to the issues the Charleston Regional Chamber supports: <https://charlestonwvchamber.com/whitepapers/>

HB 2519 - The Campus Self Defense Act - which would allow concealed weapons on college campuses, remains a concern to the Chamber. The bill passed the House and has been double-referenced to the Senate Judiciary and Finance committees. The Chamber is opposed to this legislation. You can read the Chamber's release [HERE](#).

Several bills appear to be on a fast track, including:

SB 1 – Increasing Access to Career Education and Workforce Training – Is the “Last Dollar In” commitment by the State to make post-secondary education available to more students through a grant process two pay for two additional years of college, community college or vocational training. The bill has completed the committee process in the House and will be taken up on the House floor.
http://www.wvlegislature.gov/Bill_Status/Bills_history.cfm?input=1&year=2019&sessiontype=RS&btype=bill

HB 2538 – Providing Banking Services for Medical Cannabis – The bill has completed the committee process in the Senate and is on 3rd reading on the Senate floor.
http://www.wvlegislature.gov/Bill_Status/bills_history.cfm?INPUT=2538&year=2019&sessiontype=RS

HB 2481 – Permitting Retail Sale of Alcoholic Beverages on Sundays After 1pm – The bill removes the restriction on Sunday alcohol sales, except for Easter Sunday and Sundays on which Christmas falls. The Governor has signed this bill into law, effective February 28, 2019. http://www.wvlegislature.gov/Bill_Status/bills_history.cfm?INPUT=2481&year=2019&sessiontype=RS

HB 2828 - Opportunity Zone Tax Incentives – Originating Bill in the House Small Business Entrepreneurship and Economic Development Committee. This bill would exempt taxable income from corporate net and personal income taxes during the businesses first ten years if being funded by an Opportunity Fund within an Opportunity Zone. The bill is currently on the Senate Finance agenda and is set to pass this week. http://www.wvlegislature.gov/Bill_Status/bills_history.cfm?INPUT=2828&year=2019&sessiontype=RS

SB 529 – Clarifying Provisions of Nonintoxicating Beer Act – This bill would remove the two growler limit per day and would raise the alcohol limit on beer to 15% ABV. The bill is currently on second reading in the House and is set for passage this week. http://www.wvlegislature.gov/Bill_Status/bills_history.cfm?INPUT=529&year=2019&sessiontype=RS

HB 2550 - Creating a Matching Program for the Small Business Innovation and Research Program and the Small Business Technology Transfer Program. The bill is on the Senate Finance agenda and is set to pass this week. The Chamber supports this bill and helped draft this last session. http://www.wvlegislature.gov/Bill_Status/bills_history.cfm?INPUT=2550&year=2019&sessiontype=RS

HB 2392 – Allowing the Alcohol Beverage Control Commission to Issue Special One-Day Licenses for Charitable Events – This bill allows licensed brew pubs, bars and private clubs to offer samples of beer. This is important due to the increasing interest in craft beer sales, which the Chamber supports. The bill passed the House and is referenced to Senate Judiciary.
http://www.wvlegislature.gov/Bill_Status/bills_history.cfm?INPUT=2392&year=2019&sessiontype=RS

Some other bills of interest we are following, include:

SB 4 – Relating Generally to Municipal Home Rule Program – would establish the Municipal Home Rule Pilot Program as a permanent program without a sunset provision. This bill would allow certain qualified municipalities to continue with ordinances already established and to pass certain other ordinances in limited situations. The bill has completed the committee process in both the Senate and the House and is set for passage this week on the House floor. http://www.wvlegislature.gov/Bill_Status/bills_history.cfm?INPUT=4&year=2019&sessiontype=RS

SB 29 – Creating Ten-Year Tax Credits for Businesses on Post-Coal Mine Sites – This bill was amended to extend the tax credit from five to ten years. It is currently in the House committee process. http://www.wvlegislature.gov/Bill_Status/bills_history.cfm?INPUT=29&year=2019&sessiontype=RS

SB 117 – Relating to Incentives for Consolidating Local Governments – The bill incentivizes counties or municipalities who consolidate by offering them the ability to reduce their jail bill by 10% for 10 years, to enact a 1% local sales tax and to receive preference for certain road construction projects. This bill is currently in the House committee process.
http://www.wvlegislature.gov/Bill_Status/bills_history.cfm?INPUT=117&year=2019&sessiontype=RS

SB 266 – Creating Intermediate Court of Appeals and WV Appellate Review Organization Act of 2019 – This bill is currently in the House committee process.
http://www.wvlegislature.gov/Bill_Status/bills_history.cfm?INPUT=266&year=2019&sessiontype=RS

HB 2005 – Broadband Expansion Act of 2019 – provides a method for valuation of certain wireless technology property for tax purposes, give the Public Service Commission jurisdiction over make-ready pole access within the State, and establish the WV Small Wireless Facilities Deployment Act, all to expand access to broadband within the State. The bill passed the House and was assigned to the Senate Government Organization Committee with a second reference to Finance. http://www.wvlegislature.gov/Bill_Status/bills_history.cfm?INPUT=2005&year=2019&sessiontype=RS

HB 2038 – Relating to the Procedure to Determine if an Occupation or Profession Should be Regulated – the bill provides that any proposed legislative act to create a new statutory regulatory board is prohibited if 25 states do not have the same or similar regulation unless justifiable cause can be shown. The bill also calls for a review of current boards to determine if they meet the threshold. The Chamber has long supported regulatory board reform and sees this as a step in the right direction. The bill has passed the House and is currently in the Senate committee process.
http://www.wvlegislature.gov/Bill_Status/bills_history.cfm?INPUT=2038&year=2019&sessiontype=RS

HB 3024 – West Virginia Business Ready Sites Program – This bill provides incentives for utilities to develop sites for businesses complete with utilities.
http://www.wvlegislature.gov/Bill_Status/bills_history.cfm?INPUT=3024&year=2019&sessiontype=RS

HB 2941 – Reinstating the Film Investment Tax Credit – The bill is currently in Senate Finance. http://www.wvlegislature.gov/Bill_Status/bills_history.cfm?INPUT=2941&year=2019&sessiontype=RS

HJR 17 – Business Inventory, Machinery and Equipment Tax Exemption Amendment – If passed, this would place a constitutional amendment question to the voters of West Virginia as to whether the business inventory tax should be removed from the Constitution and be left to general law. The Chamber continues to support this effort, but remains concerned about the impact to local

government. The resolution passed House Finance and is second referenced to Judiciary.

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